

January 2, 2022 . Epiphany of the Lord

Father Patrick McConnell
Pastor

Father Jayanna Kanna
Sacramental Minister

Father Dennis Meulemans
Retired Priest in Residence

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Weekday Masses

Tuesday.....6:00 pm
Thursday.....8:30 am

Weekend Masses

Saturday.....6:30 pm
Sunday.....9:30 am

Reconciliation (Confession)

5:45-6:15 pm (prior to the 6:30 pm Mass);
First Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 pm and First Thursday: 9-10 am (following the Mass for that day).

Baptism

Parents are urged to have their child baptized as soon as possible. Call the office to schedule a baptism, and for any baptismal prep that may be needed. We ask that you speak with Father before selecting sponsors, to be aware of their requirements.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call our parish office if there is a need to receive this Sacrament. We encourage you to be anointed prior to any surgeries.

Marriage

Please contact the parish office to schedule a meeting to discuss marriage plans, and before making preparations—at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date.



THE EPIPHANY *of the Lord*

*"Since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel."* - Mt 2:6b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The mission of Good Shepherd Catholic Parish is to welcome all to spiritual growth through prayer, worship and ongoing formation. Together, formed in the image of Christ, the Good Shepherd, we will tend to the needs of the entire community.

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goodshepherd@newnorth.net

Fax: 715-427-0381
<https://www.goodshepherdriblake.org/>

Mass Schedule for the Week

Tues., Jan. 4, 6:00 pm + Adoration

† Deacon Paul & Helen Ochodnický
Offered by Ken & Mary B. Thums

Thurs., Jan. 6, 8:30 am + Adoration

† Deceased Seamen, Marines & Soldiers
Offered by Mary Rhyner

Thurs., Jan. 6, 10:15 am @ Nursing Home

† Edward W. Thums (birthday)
Offered by Shirley Thums

Sat., Jan. 8, 6:30 pm

† Wimpy & Isabelle Wilhelms
Offered by Marlene Powers

Sun., Jan., 9:30 am

† Neal Olkives
Offered by Frank & Luanne Yanko

Scripture for this Week

Readings for the week of Jan. 2, 2022:

Sun: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Mon: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tues: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
Wed: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52
Thurs: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22a
Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16
Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sun: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Acts 10:34-38/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

For Spiritual Growth

The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you've caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film "It's a Wonderful Life."

If you're not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing "Buffalo Gals — Won't you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?"

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn't have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn't it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. "Upon you the LORD shines," writes Isaiah, "and over you appears his glory." Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

Remember — the magi didn't chart their own course. They merely followed the star.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Offering of Prayers

Jesus, you came to bring healing where it was needed. Therefore, remember our friends in need at this time:

All nursing home residents, Fr. Dennis Meulemans, Fr. Ed Oen, Peter Fuchs, Mike E. Thums, George Dums, Bill Bleck, Grace Fritsch, James Clemens, Susan Demers, Carol & Dan Pozanc, Kathy Haas, Jim, Susan Elendt, Marie Kofler Lindwall, Judy & Howard Troyk, Florence Cedzo, Ed Thiel, Arlene Fallos, Phyllis Fuchs, James Dean Gehrig, Robert & Sandra Thums, Ken Walkowski, Karen Olson, Duane & Sharon Jorgensen, Ed Zondlo, Brandi Schafer, Mark Fuchs, Samantha Szalkus, Nancy Nikkila, Karen Pocock, Kylie Orysen, Joe Sautner, Ben Yanko, George Gunderson, Marian Johnson, Duane Draeger, Barb Harmon, Malinda Kathrein, Jenna Denzine, Joshua & Benjamin Metz, Nicole Richardson, Lindsey Dittrich, Steve Spurgeon, Steve Eisner, Richard Weinzatl, Norman Metz, Ruth Martin, Jaxon Klimeck, Bud Brandner, Landon Blomberg, Tammy Blomberg, Cindy Ewoldt, Ali Gardezi, Angela Fiskus, Gayle Murphy, Ronald and Betty Brandner, Elynn Driscoll, Ben Haenel or those with silent needs.

Ministries For Next Weekend

Note to readers for Jan. 8-9: Please use the following readings: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 on Pgs. 43-44 of your workbook, and Acts 10:34-38 on Pgs. 45-46 in your workbook. If the responsorial is to be read, it is your choice. Thank you!

Sat., Jan. 8, 6:30 pm Music Mass

Ushers: Dan & Cathy Thums, Chong Bleck, Ben Kauer

Readers: Ginger Henrickson, Gerald Matyka

Sacristan: Cheryl Eisner

Eucharistic Minister: Pearl Kauer

Server: Greg Dums

Sun., Jan. 9, 9:00 am Music Mass

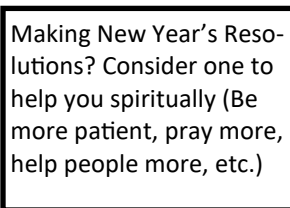
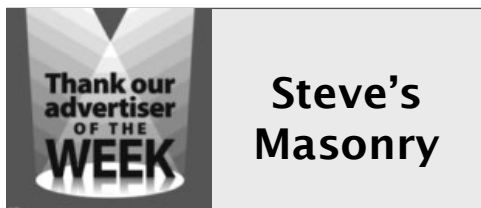
Ushers: Katherine Rezutek, Richard Hebda, Andy & Karen Dums

Readers: Mary Hebda, Barb Ruesch

Sacristan: Emily Gojmerac

Eucharistic Minister: Chris Wille

Server: Donald Dums



Faith Formation

Classes for Wed., Jan. 5:
Gr. 1-5 5:30-6:45 pm
Gr. 6-11 7-8:10 pm

The King's Birthday

The play for our youth, Grades 1-5 has been rescheduled for next Sun., Jan. 9, following the 9:30 am Mass at Good Shepherd. The play will be held in church. You are all welcome to stay for it after Mass!

Reminder of Weekday Mass Change

With our clustering, weekday Masses at Good Shepherd will be on Tuesdays, 6 pm and Thursday, 8:30 am. (No Mass Wed. & Fri.)

Adoration & Confession

Adoration will be held twice this week as follows:

Tues., Jan. 4, 6:30-7:30 pm
Thurs., Jan. 6, 9-10 am

Knights of Columbus

Meeting of the Knights will be Tuesday, Jan. 4, 7:30 pm in the parish hall (immediately following Adoration).

Catholic Services Appeal

Our thanks for the recent \$1500 donations toward our CSA for the current year. We still have about \$8,500 to reach our goal! We understand this is a tough time for people to contribute, with Christmas and tax time around the corner. But for anyone who is able to contribute, or receives a tax refund, consider what you are able to give. We only ask that people give according to their means. Any balance remaining this summer will be billed to the parish from the Diocese.

Plant Care

The 2022 plant care sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the entrance. Please sign up for a month, if you can, so the secretary does not have to water plants. (Believe us, she does not have a green thumb!)

Confession Reminder

Saturday confessions each week will be 5:45-6:15 pm (before the 6:30 pm Mass).

Welcome Through Baptism

Welcome to the Catholic faith community at Good Shepherd through the Waters of Baptism:

Lydia Irene Harder
December 29, 2021

Note to Ushers

Until we receive our long-handled collection baskets, please continue with the collection as it has been done for the last year. Any ushers unfamiliar with sealing the bags, you can ask the sacristan to seal it for you. Again, we ask for your patience in the next couple months until we can have the training. Note that new cash bags have been ordered and the new ones are smaller in size. Thank you to all the ushers for the great work of welcoming the people!

Note to Anyone Using Hall

Sacristans and anyone using the hall and lights, please be reminded to shut off the "outside" light by the west door when locking up. The switch is on the wall in the hallway by the ladies' bathroom. Thank you.

Our Gifts to God	
Collection of December 19, 2021	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 2,863.00
Loose Collection	\$ 67.01
Gift of Love Ornaments	\$ 22.00
Blacktop Donation	\$ 50.00
Energy	\$ 25.00
Christmas Envelopes	\$ 35.00
Other	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 3,162.01
Collection of Christmas	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 3,327.50
Loose Collection	\$ 460.80
Energy	\$ 10.00
Blacktop	\$ 350.00
Charity	\$ 1,060.00
Candles	\$ 90.01
TOTAL	\$ 5,298.31
Collection of December 26, 2021	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,889.00
Loose Collection	\$ 57.00
Blacktop	\$ 25.00
Other	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,471.00

A substantial cash donation envelope was gifted in our Christmas collection at the parish. Our thanks to this angel. If you wish to receive credit for your 2021 giving, please call Mary at the office this week! Thank you to all our generous people!

Note: 2021 Contribution Statements will be made available by mid-January.



"Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow." Much of our lives is about a balance between the gifts we desire to receive and those we are called to give. However, do we ever consider the reality that the great gift we can receive is the gift of giving itself. On this the feast of the Epiphany I pray we can take a note from the wise men who traveled afar for the primary purpose of giving a gift of homage to the new born king.

This year it seems we have had more than adequate time to prepare for Christmas, and now that its here we are moving quickly through the celebrations that make up this rich season. Seemingly, only days after the birth of Christ we celebrate the coming of the wise men. The delay of this celebration makes me wonder why the church calls us to reflect separately on this event that seems so integral to the Christmas story. The Christmas story is a nice story by itself and yet there is a much greater story that goes along with the little baby Jesus being born in a manger. This story includes the whole story of God and His people, including the promise of giving everything to His beloved people, "for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you." (Is. 60:5)

The story of the magi bringing the gifts at first seems to be about these men giving gifts to God, and yet the greatest gift they have been given is to give what they have been given back to God. Brothers and sisters, to us have been born a savior, Christ the Lord. What else matters, and yet we tend to hold on to the countless other gifts we have received whether for Christmas this year or throughout the years. What lengths are we willing to go to give back to the greatest gift we have received, Christ the Lord?

I love Christmas songs. They bring joy and spread the message of God with us, Christ the Lord! The one that sticks out the most is the hymn, *In the Bleak Midwinter*. The final verse asks the question, "What can I give him? Poor as I am. If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb. If I were a wise man I would do my part. But, what can I give him, Give him my heart, Give." This beautifully simple song tells us what will make the *(Continued next page)*

(From Our Pastor, Continued)

heart of Christ throb with excitement: The gift of our hearts. Often when I am presented with the question, what shall I give Christ, I forget to ask, "What does He truly desire?" As much as we would have a hard time giving Him our riches as the magi do, the greater gift that they gave was their homage, the worship, their hearts.

As we begin this new year as a newly clustered parish community, as one family in Christ, let us take time to give Christ a gift as well, a little more of our hearts, a little more of our service to Him. If we were looking for the best Christmas gift, this is it: the gift of giving ourselves to Christ! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. —Father Patrick McConnell

Thank You

The beautiful Christmas arrangements in church were made and donated by Joan Matyka. Please check them out! Thanks to her, her family, all the Decorating Committee members and others involved in beautifying the church during this Christmas Season! And thanks to Calvin Probst and any others involved in filming Christmas Mass for Father Kanna's family in India!

Thank you for the recent donations toward our blacktop account. Yes, donations are welcomed to help reach the total cost of blacktop, to be paid after its completion in 2022. Our thanks to...

Ted & Cheryl Eisner
Ginger Henrickson
Clarence & Margie Kropp

The Resudek Children & Grandchildren,
In memory of...
Stanley & Vlasta Resudek
John & Mary Resudek
James & Dora Vlach

We have experienced great generosity to our food pantry this year as well—Great Northern Cabinetry, TOPS #WI 1013, Weather Shield Employee LITE Foundation, and several individuals. It is overwhelming to see such goodness in this community. God bless all who were involved with this!

Birthdays This Week (Jan. 2-8)

Ann Leahey	Jan. 6
Betsy Koch	Jan. 3
Velma Mann	Jan. 4
Eileen Ulrich	Jan. 7
Cheryl Rosenfeldt	Jan. 5
Dan Thums	Jan. 5
Lisa Eisner	Jan. 2
Tom Eisner	Jan. 4
Sandi Yanko	Jan. 4
Derek Thieme	Jan. 5
Chandler Probst	Jan. 3
Amber Newman	Jan. 8

Anniversaries This Week (Jan. 2-8)

Dave & Chris Wille	Jan. 3
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